



New Mexico  
CHURCH OF THE



District  
NAZARENE

**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**December 2025**

### **What's in a Sacrifice?**

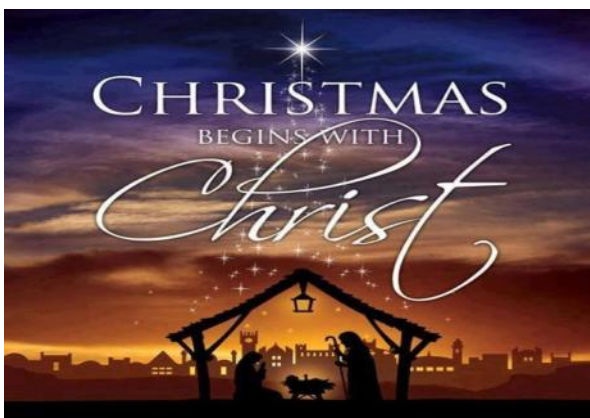
For several reasons, November's and December's Missions are being combined this year. November was a busy month, including our District Leadership Retreat and our District Ministry Candidate Interviews. What a blessing it was to gather with our leaders and our up-and-coming leaders. We are so blessed as a district to be populated by women and men who give of their lives in service to our churches. I was reminded that most of them serve sacrificially for the sake of the church and the kingdom. Very few of our leaders are paid a full-time salary for the work that they do for our churches.

Most are bi-vocational and many serve without compensation whatsoever. Quite a number serve in their positions while completing their educational requirements for ordination, thus going to school part-time, working at their church part-time, and working a secular job full-time. Across the district, we have those who are truly heroic in their sacrifice for the church and the Kingdom.

Heroic sacrifice seems to be the theme of November and December, however. On November 11, we recall the sacrifice of men and women who have served in our military to defend the freedoms of our nation. Some of these have made the supreme sacrifice and all have given of their lives in service to our country in defense of the freedoms and foundations at home and abroad. On Thanksgiving, while we give thanks for the good things that we have been blessed with by God's love and favor, we take time to remember the bravery and sacrifice of those who celebrated the first Thanksgiving. Gathered at that primitive table where those who left their country behind to establish a new home in a new world where they could worship freely, serving God without the constraint of government control. They survived in this new world by the friendship of the those who were already here, who shared their knowledge and stores with strangers to help them survive the first difficult years. Therefore, we learn to give thanks for the kindness of strangers.

And, in December we honor the sacrifice of Mary, who sacrificed her reputation to become the bearer of God's redeemer in the world and Joseph who sacrificed his right to be enraged for the sake of participating in God's plan. We honor the sacrifice of the Magi who traveled great distances with lavish gifts to give to a stranger, because they felt God calling them to it. Mostly, we honor the sacrifice of Jesus who did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped but emptied himself and took on the form of a servant. God in Christ became the greatest sacrifice, so that our sacrifices find meaning, purpose, and identity in His sacrifice for us. His sacrifice became the landmark for ours. His is the model against which we measure ours. Without His, ours become empty. Because of His, our sacrifices are full of purpose, hope, joy, and meaning. God, who came in the sacrifice of Christ, come through the sacrifices of His people to redeem the world out of its brokenness.

In His Service,  
Dr. Larry Lacher,  
New Mexico District Superintendent



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NM District  
website: [www.nmnaz.com](http://www.nmnaz.com)

District Office:  
300 Bonita Park Rd  
Capitan, NM 88316

District Phone:  
575-626-1116



## Greetings Pastors, Youth Pastors, & Youth Leaders

### Winter Retreat is coming up soon on January 16-18, 2026.

Last year we had record attendance at this event and we are preparing for another great retreat at Bonita Park including Ice skating in Ruidoso.

I have attached all the info and forms you will need and they will be available on the [nmnaz.com](http://nmnaz.com).

We recognize it is an NYC year and there is a lot of fundraising going on. This is exactly why there is not an NYC payment due in January and we are operating with very little margin for this event. But I know that your efforts toward your youth ministry, NYC, and winter retreat will have eternal impact for the Kingdom of God. Therefore, your long, hard work is worth it, and our God is faithful!

If you have any questions or concerns please let me know.

Thank you for investing in the lives of youth on our district!

**Grace & Peace, Wade Elftman**

## DISTRICT NMI NEWS

Greetings, NM District!

I hope this Advent season finds you brimming with Hope, Peace, Love, & Joy because of our Savior! We have much to celebrate as a church and I am so excited to see all the ways our District is being the hands and feet of Jesus this Christmas season! Thank you for sharing your ideas and outreach events with us!

### **NCM:**

If you have not had a chance to see the Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Christmas Project yet, there is still time! Check out this link to learn more about Unboxing Hope for students in the Middle East this Christmas: <https://ncm.org/>

### **Bonita Park Giving Tree:**

I also have several packets of the Bonita Park Christmas Tree templates if you need one for your church. This is a fun way to get everyone involved in Blessing our Wonderful Campground and the ministry that goes on there. We had our children color the ornaments and decorate a giving tree in our foyer for the season! Keep Bonita Park in your prayers! If you set up a tree, will you share a picture on our NM NMI FB Group? Join the group here if you're not a member yet: <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/17saJ1yHek/>

### **Links:**

We are also in our last month with our current Links Missionaries, the Carrims. If you have a chance to send one more email of encouragement or one more Deputation gift for Christmas, please do so. Here are the links to contact them. Thank you for loving on the Carrims this year! We will have a new Links Assignment in January 2026.

Email:

[rcarrim@africanazarene.org](mailto:rcarrim@africanazarene.org)

Profile Page:

<https://give.nazarene.org/pledge/carrim>



### **Global Prayer for the Church of the Nazarene:**

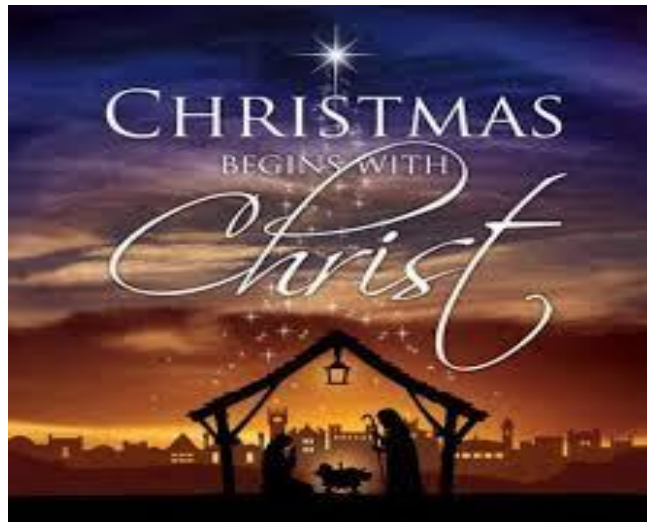
On **December 5–6**, from **19:00 UTC to 19:00 UTC**, the Church of the Nazarene will gather online for **24 consecutive hours of prayer**, as we lift our voices together *To the Ends of the Earth*.

Please let me know if I can be praying for any of you and your outreach events! I know this is a busy month, but I hope you take the time to slow down and enjoy the hope that it brings!

Merry Christmas!

Joyfully,

Nicole Young District NMI President



Don't forget to check out Nazarene Compassionate Ministries for ideas for Christmas Projects and other compassionate ministry projects to support this holiday season. While there are countless ways to give during the holiday season, I would love to see an outpouring of our Nazarene churches supporting our Nazarene Compassionate Ministry projects this year!

The 2025 NCM Christmas Project, *Unboxing Hope: Give the Gift of Learning*, will focus on children in Jordan and Lebanon who attend Nazarene schools designed to nurture the whole child—mind, body, and spirit. Many of these students are refugees who have been displaced by war and violence, and school becomes their safe haven: a place to grow, heal, and thrive.

With your help, these children receive so much more than an education. They experience the care of loving teachers, hear about God's love, build deep friendships, and gain access to vital resources like healthcare, food vouchers, and trauma support—all through their local Nazarene church.

This Christmas, we're inviting both churches and individuals to help us unbox hope for these students. *Will you join us?*

Nicole



### **Up Coming Important Dates for the New Mexico District 2025-2026**

#### **DECEMBER**

**CHRISTMAS EVE** **DEC 24**

**CHRISTMAS DAY** **DEC 25**

#### **JANUARY 2026**

**NEW YEARS DAY** **JAN 1 2026**

**NYI MID WINTER RETREAT** **JAN 16-18 2026**

**THERE ARE SO MANY OTHER EVENTS HAPPENING ON OUR DISTRICT, SO PLEASE BE CHECKING THE CALENDAR AT:**

**[www.nmnaaz.com](http://www.nmnaaz.com)**



# Look Whats Happening Around our District!



Sandia  
CON



At Heights 1st CON  
WEDNESDAY  
NIGHT AT  
HEIGHTS...join us  
for ESL, Food, Adult  
Studies, Kids and  
Youth worship and  
activities.



LIVING STONES  
COMM. CON  
NYC Fundraiser



Gingerbread  
Bash!!  
Angus CON  
Friendsgiving



Aztec CON

Fiesta Potluck and  
Pie Auction today!



New Sign



Church Street  
CON



This Wednesday night, our church family is coming together for one of the most joyful nights of the year—Deck the Halls! We'll be transforming Cross Roads with Christmas cheer, hanging lights, decorating trees, and setting the stage for a beautiful season of hope.



Roswell 1st



Roswell Central  
You see turkeys..... I see a blessing to families in the community. Roswell Central has been giving turkeys away as a way to sow love and blessings this thanksgiving.

What a blessing! Our Cross Roads Senior Ministry wrapped up the fall Thursday Bible Study with a joyful luncheon filled with wisdom, laughter, and heartfelt conversation.